



# Iraqis Improve Amarah Irrigation

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER** — Local Iraqi construction workers recently completed work on a very important irrigation canal and water pump project on the outskirts of Amarah, in the Maysan province.

“We are very appreciative of these improvements,” said Sheik Haj Hatim Sadkhan, a highly-respected local Amarah city leader.

“We will continue to support the government of Iraq and Coalition forces,” he said.

The new canal and water pump project will give 20 local farmers the ability to farm an additional 400 hectare of land annually.

The month-long project, which was completed Sept. 29, 2008, provides the farmers with a much-needed and improved irrigation system to grow more crops during the upcoming season.

This project and similar ones can now be completed due to the increased security in the Maysan province. The 38th Iraqi Army Brigade, partnered with the

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Sheik Haj Hatim, a local national leader in the Maysan province, stands beside an irrigation canal built by local Iraqis in Amarah. The month-long project was completed Sept. 29, 2008. Photo by 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs.

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## Another Water Purification Unit Opens in Village

**ABDUL RAZAQ** — Soldiers from the 7th Sustainment Brigade gathered with local Iraqi leaders in Abdul Razaq to participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the village's water purification unit, Sept. 30.

Col. Mark Barbosa, 7th Sus. Bde. commander, met with Iraqi government, military and tribal leaders to celebrate the combined effort between Iraqi and Coalition forces to improve clean water production.

Within the past two months, the brigade, deployed from Ft. Eustis, Va., has worked with Dhi Qar officials to refurbish two reverse osmosis water

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Iraqi Police (IP) officers speak to a woman outside the Izza station in al Kut, Sept. 17, 2008. The IP are transforming their force from a paramilitary police force to a more traditional one. Photo by Sgt. Daniel West, Multi-National Division-Central.

## IP Work to Change Image, Focus

**FOB DELTA** — Iraqi Police (IP) in Wasit province are transforming their force from a paramilitary police force to a more traditional one, changing a structure left over from Saddam Hussein’s regime.

The restructuring, a directive from the national ministry of the interior, aims to place IPs in positions to exploit their greatest strengths.

“We assign IPs with military backgrounds to the special response teams and the checkpoints,” said Brig. Gen. Alawy Hussein Alsaray. “Those who have been trained solely as police officers are assigned to the community police stations.

“That way, those with a military background work in the areas that are most military-like. The others are assigned to investigations and other traditional police roles.”

This method is effective because many of the IP officers are former Iraqi Army,

said Sgt. Peter Klementowski, 511th Military Police Co., a trainer for the IP.

“Placing the military minds in the SRTs is effective because they play a more military role, are heavily armed and trained in urban warfare tactics,” Klementowski said.

“The traditional role, the neighborhood stations, is to be visible every day and to interact with the population,” he added.

“These should be roles for new officers, those brought up in the police system.”

“The biggest thing we are working on is changing the image of the IPs,” said Capt. Jess Traver, commander, 511th Military Police Co. “We want to focus on community policing, interacting with the community ... developing a visible IP value system emphasizing duty, commitment, honesty.”

“Under Saddam, the police were a para-

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## U.S. Soldiers Host Iftar Dinner, Bring Aloha Spirit to Muslim Culture

**CAMP TAJI** — Warrior Brigade continued its tradition of eliminating cultural divides by hosting an recent Iftar dinner here.

Col. Todd McCaffrey, commander, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and other senior leaders hosted Iraqi Army (IA), Police (IP) and National Police (NP) commanders during the traditional meal, which Muslims have at the end of daily fasting during Ramadan.

“The colonel ate dates and drank water to break the fast, just like one of us,” said NP Col. Ahmed Mohammed Mohammed Saleh, commander, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, referring to the Quran verse “When one of you breaks his fast he should do so with dates for they provide blessing, but if he cannot get any he should break his fast with water for it is purifying.”

After prayers, ISF commanders joined McCaffrey, his battalion commanders and other leaders in the dining facility to begin the meal.

“Thank you, to our Iraqi partners.

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U.S. Air Force MH-53 Pave Low helicopters over Iraq, Sept. 27, 2008. Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon.



Children play as Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers patrol in Ad Diwaniyah, Sept. 30, 2008. Photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Plew.



An Iraqi Soldier holds his country’s flag on Patrol Base Shanghai, Sept. 30, 2008. Photo by Spc. Richard Del Vecchio.